

**REMARKS**

Claims 3-7 and 9-20 are pending in the present application. Claim 3 is the sole remaining independent claim. By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1, 2, and 8.

**I. Office Action Summary:**

Item number 10. of the Office Action Summary refers to drawings submitted on May 13, 2002. However, no drawings were submitted on May 13, 2002. The drawings of the present application were submitted on December 21, 2001, together with other application papers.

Item number 13.b. of the Office Action Summary indicates that "some" of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. In this case, however, there is only a single priority document, and the USPTO has received the appropriate copy of the same.

**II. Specification Objections:**

The Examiner objects to the specification for the reasons set forth at numbered paragraphs 1-3 of the Office Action.

On the one hand, and as a path of least resistance, Applicant amends the specification to address some of the Examiner's concerns. Specifically, Applicant amends paragraph [0002] by deleting the term "devise" in favor of --devices--, paragraph [0022] by rewriting the term "internally an externally" as --internally and externally--, and paragraph [0008] by deleting references to specific claim numbers.

On the other hand, Applicant disagrees with the objection to paragraph [00026]. Paragraph [0026], which is a broadening paragraph, does refer to the claims in general. Such broadening paragraphs are common and a well accepted application drafting technique. If this objection is maintained, then Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to cite some authority (or even an MPEP section) to support the objection position.

### **III. Drawing Objections:**

The Examiner objects to the drawings for the reasons noted at numbered paragraph 4 of the Office Action. Applicant does not believe that any changes to the drawings are necessary, but instead responds to the various drawing objections as follows, with reference to the marked up copy of Figs. 1 and 2 accompanying this Amendment.

An exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of the coupling between the main motor and the *housing* of the support motor is shown in Fig. 2 (which is a top view of Fig. 1). Here, as explained in paragraph [0022], the main motor 8 is coupled to the *housing* of the support motor 13 via the toothed belt 14. The toothed belt 14 is the coupling. See the marked up Fig. 2.

An exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of the toothed gears is shown in Fig. 1 (which is a schematic side view). Here, the gear rings 12, 6 are shown in cross-section. The gear ring 12 has internal and external teeth, while the gear ring 6 has external teeth only. The inward facing side of the gear ring 6 abuts against a bearing 2 (and therefore no teeth are necessary). See the marked up Fig. 1.

Applicant cancels claim 8, thereby overcoming the Examiner's objection with respect to the term "windings."

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the features defined by the pending claims are illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2.

### **IV. Claim Objections:**

The Examiner objects to claims 1-20 because they recite the term "support motor," while the specification primarily refers to the same element as a "rest motor." Applicant disagrees with the basis for the objection since there is no *in haec verba* requirement in determining whether claims are supported by the specification. That is, the claims do not have define the invention by exactly the same terms indicated in the specification. Nevertheless, and as a

path of least resistance, Applicant has amended the specification (where appropriate) by deleting the term "rest motor" in favor of --support motor--.

**V. Specification Objections Under 37 C.F.R. §1.71:**

At numbered paragraph 7 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the grammatical error in the specification (e.g., "internally an externally" toothed gear ring 12) coupled with the alleged insufficiency of the drawings, renders the written description unclear. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

When the entire specification (inclusive of the drawings) is considered, it is readily apparent that the term "internally ~~an~~ externally" is a typographical error that should have been written as --internally **and** externally--. First, as discussed above in section III, Fig. 1 clearly shows that the gear ring 12 has internal teeth and external teeth. Second, paragraph [0013] indicates that the gear rings are provided with external teeth, and that the gear ring for driving the leadscrew 5 is toothed internally. Please note that the gear ring 12 is the one that drives the leadscrew 5 in the exemplary, non-limiting embodiment of Figs. 1 and 2. And third, claim 6 (as originally filed) indicates that the further transmission mechanism is an "externally and internally" toothed gear.

Turning to the next point, the Examiner points out that paragraph [0022] indicates that the gear ring 12 is mounted rotatably on the frame support 3, and concludes that this is mis-descriptive of the illustrated device. **Mis-descriptive?** This is simply not understood for the following reasons.

As explained in paragraph [0021], the gear ring 6 is part of the frame support 3. And as shown in Fig. 1, the gear ring 6 confronts the gear ring 12, and an element (not labeled) is interposed therebetween. This element may rotatably couple the gear ring 12 to the gear ring 6 (and thus to the frame support 3). This rotatable couple feature is also defined by claim 10.

The Examiner also believes that the gear ring 12 is nested in the pinion 17. However, Figs. 1 and 2 clearly show that the pinion 17 is located on the radial outside of the gear ring 12.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the raised specification objections.

**VI. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112(1<sup>st</sup>):**

The Examiner rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 112(1<sup>st</sup>) because independent claims 1 and 3 recite terms that allegedly lack adequate written description. The basis for the rejections is indicated as being the same as the reasons for the specification objections. Applicant disagrees for all of the reasons noted above in section V.

**VII. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112(2<sup>nd</sup>):**

The Examiner rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112(2<sup>nd</sup>) for the reasons noted at numbered paragraph 9 of the Office Action.

Applicant cancels claims 1 and 8, thereby rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

With respect to claim 3, the Examiner points out that is unclear how a "fixed" support motor can have a rotatable housing. To address the Examiner's concerns, Applicant amends claim 3 by deleting the term "fixed."

The amended claims are believed to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention, thereby overcoming all of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112(2<sup>nd</sup>).

**VIII. Claim Rejection on Prior Art Grounds:**

The Examiner rejects claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,605,083 to Lupke et al.

Applicant cancels claims 1 and 2, without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the raised rejection moot.

***No prior art references have been asserted against claims 3-7 and 9-20. Thus, Applicant presumes that these claims are in condition for allowance.***

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, an early indication of the allowability of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

In the event that any matters remain at issue in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 in the Northern Virginia area, for the purpose of a telephonic interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By \_\_\_\_\_

Donald J. Daley  
Reg. No. 34,313

P.O. Box 8910  
Reston, VA 20195  
(703) 668-8000

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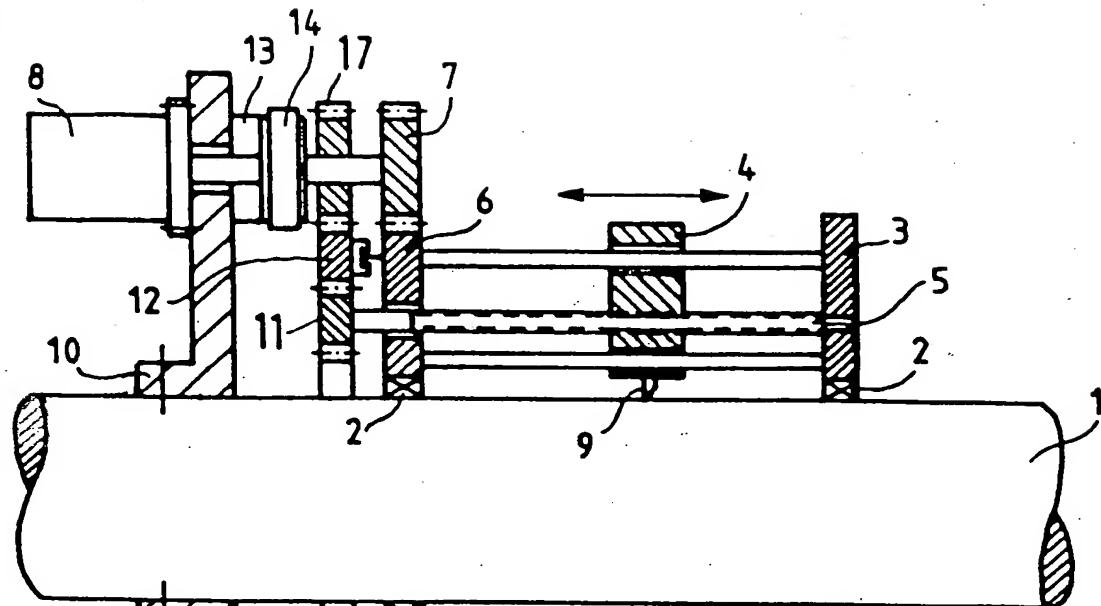


Fig. 1

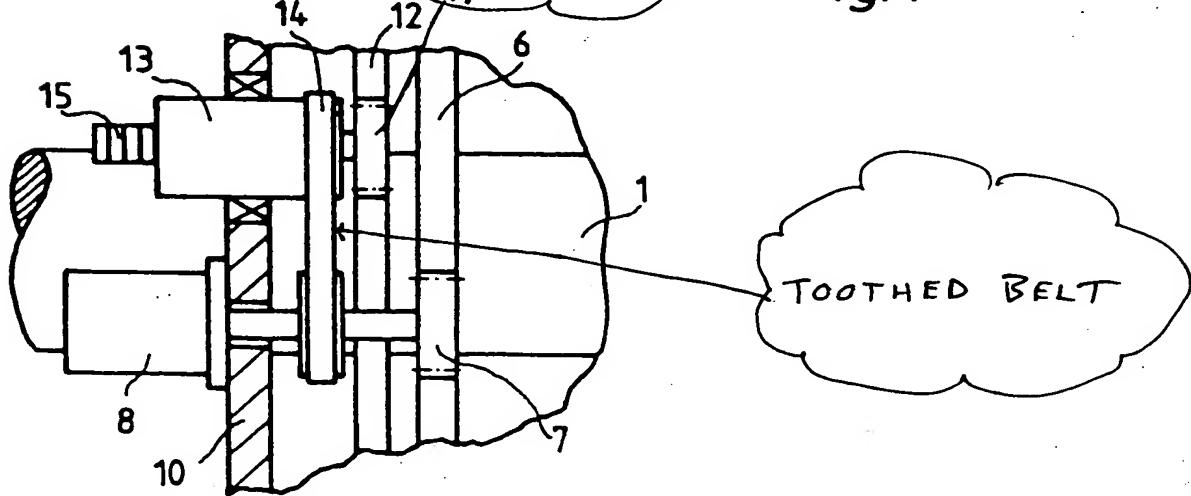


Fig. 2